

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD:PDTAYLOR/JAPLACKE:JV

APPROVED BY EB/ORF:JLKATZ

USDA:SEARLY (SUBS)

EA/ANP:RWILLIAMS

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P 110031Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAGR, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: US MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM FOR 1976

REF: (A) STATE 052408; (B) STATE 052407; (C) STATE 051112

1. ADDRESSEES REQUESTED TO CONTACT HOST GOVERNMENTS AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT RESPONSE TO US MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM PROPOSAL CONVEYED FORMALLY MARCH 1. NO REACTION YET RECEIVED FROM THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSIES. WE REQUIRE PROMPT RESPONSES TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE BEFORE ISSUANCE OF NEXT MEAT IMPORT ESTIMATE BY USDA, DUE MARCH 31, WHETHER VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS CAN BE CONCLUDED TO LIMIT IMPORTS TO LESS THAN THE 1233 MILLION POUND TRIGGER LEVEL.

2. ALTHOUGH OUR POSITION WAS FORMALLY PRESENTED ONLY RECENTLY, WE HAVE CONSULTED FREQUENTLY ON AN INFORMAL
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BASIS IN REGARD TO THE 1976 PROGRAM SINCE EARLY DECEMBER.

WE PROVIDED THE EMBASSIES OF EACH COUNTRY A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR THINKING ON FEBRUARY 5 AND WE UNDERSTAND THIS WAS CONVEYED TO CAPITALS FOR CONSIDERATION. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT IMPORT LEVELS, DELAY IN CONCLUDING FORMAL RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS BEYOND MARCH 31 COULD RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS LIMITING TOTAL IMPORTS TO 1120.9

MILLION POUNDS. MOREOVER, ADDRESSEES SHOULD POINT OUT THAT HOST GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE ASSURED THAT ITS RELATIVE SHARE OF TOTAL IMPORTS PROPOSED UNDER VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM WILL BE AS LARGE UNDER QUOTA SYSTEM.

3. ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO DRAW ON REFTELS AS APPROPRIATE TO REITERATE POINTS WE MADE TO REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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